

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 16, 2013**

**DRAFT**

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on October 16, 2013, at the American Legion Building, 1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond.

**Members Present**

- Harold Barton, Air Force Association
- Richard Mansfield, AMVETS
- Don Kaiserman, Association of the United States Army
- John Edwards, Korean War Veterans Association
- John Prendergast, Marine Corps League
- Stu Williams, Military Officers Association of America
- Robert Fairchild, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- William Barrett, Military Order of the World Wars
- Thomas Moran, National Association for Uniformed Services
- Matthew Dailey, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- David Coffield, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Carmen Gentile, Reserve Officers Association
- Thomas Gimble, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- George Corbett, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Bob Huffman, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
- Shawn Otto, Virginia National Guard Association
- Marie Juliano, Women Marines Association
- Thad Jones, Chairman, Board of Veterans Services
- Rich Schollmann, Chairman, Veterans Services Foundation
- Paul Galanti, Commissioner of Veterans Services

**Members Absent**

- George Coker, American Ex-POWs
- Brett Reistad, American Legion
- Allan McCroskey, Disabled American Veterans
- Abe Zino, Fleet Reserve Association
- Tom Richards, Legion of Valor of the U.S., Inc.
- Glenn Rodriguez, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- Jim Clem, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council

**Alternates Present (representing their VSO)**

- Rick Oertel, American Legion (for October 16 meeting)

- David Hawley, Disabled American Veterans
- Bill Whitt, Fleet Reserve Association (for October 16 meeting)
- Rich Rinaldo, Legion of Valor
- Frank Driscoll, Navy Seabee Veterans of America

### **Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)**

- John Sabatini, AMVETS
- Vic Pena, Military Officers Association of America
- Dan Dennison, National Association for Uniformed Services

### **Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present**

- Al Pianalto, Veterans Services Foundation
- Dick Hickman, Deputy Staff Director, Senate Finance Committee, General Assembly
- Cindy Norwood, Office of the Attorney General
- Christina Lipin, Department of Motor Vehicles
- Steven Combs, Department of Veterans Services
- Tammy Davidson, Department of Veterans Services
- Jack Hilgers, Department of Veterans Services
- Matt Leslie, Department of Veterans Services
- Danielle Weaver, Department of Veterans Services
- Cathy Wilson, Department of Veterans Services

### **Others Present**

- Sharon Barton, McGuire VA Medical Center STAR Program
- Michael Allen, McGuire VA Medical Center STAR Program
- Fiona Schneider, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- Sharon Brooks
- Janice Jones
- Eunice Snyder
- Jay Martin, Veterans Sentinel Group
- Erika Jones-Haskins, Director of Program Initiatives, Homeward
- Nancy Melton, Vice President of Development & Marketing, Richmond Metropolitan Habitat for Humanity
- Kerri Gerke, Veteran Resource Specialist, VWWP Region IV

### **Items included in the Agenda Packet**

Agenda (Agenda Item II)

Presentations (Agenda Item V)

- Virginia Veterans Services Foundation
  - Comparison: Private Sector Charitable Organizations and the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation
  - Checking Donor Performance
  - Charity Navigator “Support Our Troops” Star Ranked Charities

Reports (Agenda Item VI)

- Board of Veterans Services Report
- Veterans Services Foundation Report
- Department of Veterans Services Report

#### Old Business (Agenda Item VII)

- Veterans courts and legal services for veterans
- Initiatives Postponed from July 17 meeting
  - DAV-01, Position paper DAV-01, Exempt DAV Transportation Vans from Having to Pay Tolls
  - Position paper FRA-01, Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Licenses
  - MOAA 2014 “Watch Items”

#### New Business (Agenda Item VII)

- JLC 2014 Initiatives
  - Summary
  - JLC 2014-01, Hiring and Retention of DVS Claims Agents;
  - JLC 2014-02, Educating Employers on the Value of Hiring Veterans;
  - JLC 2014-03, Funding for Virginia Wounded Warrior Program;
  - JLC 2014-04, Electronic Return of Absentee Ballots by Overseas Uniformed Military Voters;
  - JLC 2014-05, Implementing the Virginia Homeless Veterans Program;
  - JLC 2014-06, Measure if Virginia Veterans are Being Properly Served;
  - JLC 2014-07, Real Property Tax Exemption for Spouses of Military Killed in Action;
- BVS 2014 Initiatives
  - Summary
  - BVS 2014-01, Benefit Services Section Staffing
  - BVS 2014-02, State Veterans Cemeteries Staffing
  - BVS 2014-03, Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program Residency Requirements
- JLC Appointed Officers for 2013-2014

### **Opening and Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Don Kaiserman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Vice-Chairman Thomas “Chip” Moran led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Roll Call of VSOs and Quorum Determination**

The roll was called, and 22 of the 24 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) were recorded as being represented and a quorum was determined. Mr. Thad Jones, the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS), Mr. Rich Schollmann, the Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF), and Commissioner Paul Galanti of the Department of Veterans Services were recorded as present.

## **Introductions of Guests**

Chairman Kaiserman asked Mr. Steven Combs to introduce the state officials and guests. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chairman Kaiserman welcomed them to the meeting.

## **Approval of the agenda**

Chairman Kaiserman proposed a change to Item VIII(g) of the agenda: that the word “Ratify” be changed to “Review.” Mr. Richard Rinaldo made a **motion, seconded** by Vice Chairman Moran to approve the agenda with change this change (the approved agenda is included as Attachment I).

## **Approve July 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes and August 14, 2013 Veterans Roundtable minutes**

Chairman Kaiserman stated that the minutes of the July 17, 2013 meeting had been distributed electronically and asked for a motion to approve the minutes as drafted. Mr. Stu Williams made a **motion, seconded** by Vice Chairman Moran, to approve the minutes as drafted. The July 17, 2013 minutes were approved as drafted by **unanimous** consent.

Chairman Kaiserman stated that the Veterans Roundtable meeting on August 14, 2013 had a very good turnout, and that Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security Terrie Suit, then-Deputy Secretary (now Secretary) of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security Jim Hopper, Commissioner Paul Galanti, Deputy Commissioner Cathy Wilson and Director of Policy & Planning Steven Combs were in attendance.

Chairman Kaiserman stated that the minutes of the August 14, 2013 Veterans Roundtable meeting had been distributed electronically and asked for a motion to approve the minutes as drafted. Mr. Richard Mansfield made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. John Prendergast, to approve the minutes as drafted. The August 14, 2013 Veterans Roundtable minutes were approved as drafted by **unanimous** consent.

## **Opening remarks**

Chairman Kaiserman welcomed the alternate JLC members to the meeting, noting that Mr. Rick Oertel was representing the American Legion at today’s meeting and that Mr. Bill Whitt was representing the Fleet Reserve Association. Chairman Kaiserman reminded the Council members that it was important that each veterans service organization (VSO) have an alternate.

## **Presentations**

### **Veterans Services Foundation**

Mr. Al Pianalto of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the VSF. Topics covered included the history, authority, mission, and composition of the VSF; information on evaluating veterans charities; and why the JLC member organizations should support the VSF. Mr. Pianalto had three documents in support of his presentation:

1. Comparison of the VSF and Private Sector Charitable Organizations.
2. Guide to evaluating donor performance

### 3. Ratings of military/veterans charities from Charity Navigator

The comparison document is included as Attachment 2. Mr. Pianalto's presentation and the other documents are available upon request.

Mr. Stu Williams explained that sometimes there is confusion between the identities of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program and the Wounded Warrior Project. These are two different programs. Chairman Kaiserman stated that donors need to be certain which program they are donating to.

Mr. Harold Barton suggested that the VSF create a legacy planning. Mr. Jack Hilgers stated that this was discussed at the last VSF meeting and is being looked into.

Mr. Pianalto reviewed several resources to help validate a charity organization.

Mr. Pianalto reviewed the spreadsheet Charity Navigator "*Support Our Troops*" Star Ranked Charities that list the charities by star ratings and explained how the star ratings are achieved.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Mr. Pianalto for his presentation and for Delegate Kirk Cox's support of our veterans.

### **Homeless and Housing Programs for Veterans**

Mr. Matt Leslie, DVS Associate Director of Housing Development for Veterans, introduced himself. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to facilitate a series of presentations on homeless and housing programs for veterans:

#### **1. "All Hands on Deck: Collaborating to End Veteran Homelessness In Virginia"**

Mr. Leslie delivered a presentation titled "*All Hands on Deck: Collaborating to End Veteran Homelessness in Virginia.*" Mr. Leslie's presentation is not attached to these minutes, but is available upon request.

#### **2. "It takes a community – Continuums of Care and the local deliver of homeless services"**

Ms. Erika Jones-Haskins, Director of Program Initiatives, Homeward, gave a presentation titled "*It takes a community – Continuums of Care and the local deliver of homeless service.*" Ms. Jones-Haskin's presentation is not attached to these minutes, but is available upon request. She noted that Homeward will hold a Project Homeless event on November 14 to assist homeless individuals in the Richmond region.

#### **3. "Habitat for Heroes: Every Hero Deserves a Place to Call Home"**

Ms. Nancy Melton, Vice President of Development & Marketing, Richmond Metropolitan Habitat for Humanity, gave a presentation titled "*Habitat for Heroes: Every Hero Deserves a Place to Call Home.*" She explained that her organization covers the Richmond area and works with different partners to help provide low income families with affordable housing. Through the Richmond program, homeowner can receive assistance with refinancing to bring down their house payment to make it more

affordable. She also explained the Critical Home Repair program.

**4. “Casework in Action: Assisting a Veteran on the Path to Housing”**

Ms. Kerri Gerke, Veteran Resources Specialist, Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) Region IV, gave a presentation titled “*Casework in Action: Assisting a Veteran on the Path to Housing.*” She provided an example of a family they helped. She noted that she connects veterans to DVS claims agents, the College of William & Mary’s Puller Clinic, and other resources.

Mr. Leslie thanked Ms. Jones-Haskins, Ms. Melton and Ms. Gerke for their presentations.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Mr. Leslie, Ms. Jones-Haskins, Ms. Melton and Ms. Gerke for their presentations. Chairman Kaiserman stated that it is very encouraging to see so many different organizations working with homeless veterans.

## **Reports**

### **Board of Veterans Services**

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Thad Jones delivered the BVS report (*Attachment 3*). Mr. Jones invited the Council members to attend the BVS meeting scheduled for November 13, emphasized the excellent partnership between the BVS and JLC, and stated that the BVS will continue to support the work of the JLC.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Mr. Jones for his report.

### **Veterans Services Foundation**

Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Chairman Rich Schollmann delivered the VSF report (*Attachment 4*). Mr. Schollmann announced the unfortunate passing of Mr. David Holt, the immediate past-Chairman of the VSF. A memorial service will be held Friday, October 18 at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery. Mr. Schollmann stated that the VSF will be meeting on October 31 for a retreat, and that the next VSF board meeting is scheduled for November 6.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Mr. Schollmann for his report.

### **Virginia Military Advisory Council**

Vice Chairman Moran stated that the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC) had not met since the last JLC meeting, and therefore he had no report on its activities. He also stated that the VMAC is expected to hold a meeting in November.

### **Department of Veterans Services**

Commissioner Galanti delivered the DVS report (*Attachment 5*). Commissioner Galanti noted that Secretary of Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs Terrie Suit has stepped down in September and that Mr. Jim Hopper, Deputy Secretary under Ms. Suit, has been appointed the new Secretary by Governor McDonnell. Commissioner Galanti noted that he had been

appointed by Governor McDonnell for a five year term and that he expects to serve as Commissioner for the next year and half.

*Chairman Kaiserman called for a lunch break at 12:00 p.m. He called the meeting back to order at 12:40 pm.*

## **Old Business**

### **Veterans courts and legal services for veterans**

Mr. Combs delivered a report on veterans courts and legal services for veterans, as requested by Mr. Richard Mansfield at the last JLC meeting (*Attachment 6*). Mr. Combs explained that DVS prepared the report with key work done by the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) staff.

Vice Chairman Moran asked if anyone knew how many localities have established veterans courts or special veterans dockets.

Mr. Harold Barton suggested removing the use of “Veterans Service Court” as it is not favored by some in the legal system. He stated that Judge Taylor in Hampton is doing a great job serving veterans, and that localities provide funding for special judicial procedures or dockets. He said that Norfolk is not currently operating such a program.

Mr. Mansfield asked for a presentation on veterans courts and legal services at a future JLC meeting to better inform the Council of what the localities are doing in this arena.

Ms. Cindy Norwood stated that each VSO can go to their localities and encourage them to contact DVS to join this program.

### **Review and discuss initiatives postponed from July 17 meeting**

Chairman Kaiserman referred the members to Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Position Paper DAV 2014-01, “*To Exempt DAV Transportation Vans from Having to Pay on Virginia Bridges and Highways when transporting Veterans to their VA medical appointments.*” He suggested that the DAV bring this initiative up to and pursue it with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), which is responsible for tolls. Mr. David Hawley stated that he does not know if VDOT has been contacted by the DAV. Vice Chairman Moran suggested tabling this initiative till the next meeting. He said that he thought that Delegate Christopher Stolle was researching this issue and might bring it to the 2014 General Assembly.

Vice Chairman Moran made a **motion** to table this initiative to the next JLC meeting, **seconded** by Mr. John Prendergast. The motion to table passed by **unanimous** consent.

Chairman Kaiserman referred the members to Fleet Reserve Association (FRA) Position Paper FRA 2014-01, “*Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping Licenses.*” Mr. Bill Whitt stated that the Fleet Reserve Association is in favor of tabling this initiative until the next JLC meeting.

Vice Chairman Moran made a **motion** to table this initiative to the next JLC meeting, **seconded** by Mr. Bob Huffman. The motion to table passed by **unanimous** consent.

## **New Business**

### **Review JLC 2014 Initiatives: current status and JLC sponsors**

Chairman Kaiserman asked Mr. Stu Williams to review the current status and JLC sponsors of the JLC 2014 Initiatives. Position Papers for each initiative were included in the agenda packet. While not part of these minutes, the papers are available upon request. Specific items of discussion for each initiative is noted below.

- **JLC 2014-01: Hiring and Retention of DVS Claims Agents**

Mr. Barton asked if this initiative is a rating increase and who has the authority to increase the rate in various locations to compensate for living expenses.

Mr. Mansfield explained that there is a high turnover rate for DVS Claims Agents due to the salary.

Mr. Pianalto explained that the pay grade is decided by Virginia Department of Human Resources Management.

Mr. Combs explained that the state has pay bands similar to the military. DVS claims agents are currently in pay band 4. This pay band ranges from about \$32,000 to \$70,000. Veterans service administrators are in pay band 3. DVS has 36 agents and 24 support staff. Mr. Combs suggested that sub-pay bands could be created within pay band 4 to give claims agents more salary progression within the pay band, dependent on training and performance standards being met. He noted that since this is a budget item, it would not be known until December 16 if additional funding is included in the Governor's budget.

Vice Chairman Moran said that he represented the JLC at meetings of the Board of Veterans Services' Benefits Committee and worked very closely with BVS Chairman Thad Jones to develop and review staff development and salary actions for DVS.

- **JLC 2014-02: Educating Employers on the Value of Hiring Veterans**
- **JLC 2014-03: Funding the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program**
- **JLC 2014-04: Electronic Return of Absentee Ballots by Overseas Uniformed Military Voters**

Mr. Williams stated that three meetings of the General Assembly's Joint Commission on Technology and Science (JCOTS) have been held on this issue, and that he has represented the JLC at these meetings. He noted that the JCOT's Cyber Security

Subcommittee supports this issue and will recommend that the full JCOTS approve draft legislation supporting this issue when the JCOTS meets in November.

- **JLC 2014-05: Implementing the Virginia Homeless Veterans Program**
- **JLC 2014-06: Measure if Virginia Veterans are Being Properly Served**
- **JLC 2014-07: Real Property Tax Exemption for Spouses of Military Killed in Action**

#### **Review BVS 2014 Initiatives, vote to endorse and support**

Mr. Thad Jones reviewed the BVS 2014 Initiatives and asked that the JLC support the BVS initiatives. Papers for each initiative were included in the agenda packet. While not part of these minutes, the papers are available upon request.

- **BVS 2014-01: Benefit Services Section Funding.** Chairman Jones noted that this was a budget item and was aligned with the JLC's top priority.
- **BVS 2014-02: State Veterans Cemeteries Staffing.** Chairman Jones noted that this was a budget item.
- **BVS 2014-03: Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program Residency Requirements:** Chairman Jones noted that this was a legislative item.

Vice Chairman Moran stated that there are nine unique items in front of the JLC to consider: seven items for the JLC and three items for the BVS, with the top priority – funding for the DVS Benefits Services Section – being the top and shared priority for both the JLC and BVS.

Chairman Kaiserman asked for a **motion** to endorse and support the three BVS initiatives. Mr. Williams made a motion, **seconded** by Mr. Hawley, to endorse and support the three BVS initiatives. The motion was approved **unanimously**.

#### **Report on the meeting with the Governor**

Chairman Kaiserman reported that the August 14 Veterans Roundtable Meeting with Governor Bob McDonnell, co-hosted by the JLC and the BVS, was very successful, and provided a very effective way for the JLC and BVS to present their initiatives directly to the Governor. He noted that several legislators also attended the forum.

#### **Approve General Assembly Patrons for JLC and BVS legislative initiatives to be recommended to the Governor**

Chairman Kaiserman asked that JLC members volunteer their organizations to serve as JLC sponsors for each JLC initiative, noting that the JLC sponsor/VSO would be the JLC "expert" on that issue and would follow the bill or budget item through the General Assembly, representing the JLC at subcommittee and committee meetings to support the initiative.

Chairman Kaiserman noted that, after meeting with Delegate Kirk Cox, he had identified potential House of Delegates patrons for each JLC initiative. Potential Senate patrons were not identified. Chairman Kaiserman noted that he had or would reach out to the potential House patrons to determine if they would serve as patrons for JLC initiatives.

After some discussion by the JLC members, the following JLC Sponsors and House Patrons were selected:

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Sponsors</b>	<b>House Patrons</b>
JLC 2014-01	VFW	Delegate Rich Anderson
JLC 2014-02	MOPH	Delegate Kirk Cox
JLC 2014-03	MOPH	Delegate Scott Lingamfelter
JLC 2014-04	MOAA	Delegate John O'Bannon
JLC 2014-05	NAUS	Delegate Thomas Greason
JLC 2014-06	MOAA, with RVVC support	Delegate Joseph Yost
JLC 2014-07	MOAA, with DAV support	Delegate David Ramadan

#### **Prepare for forums/meetings with General Assembly members**

The Council members discussed potential forums/meetings with legislators to be held in November or December in Richmond, Hampton Roads, and Northern Virginia.

#### **Approve JLC Appointed Officers for 2013-2014**

Chairman Kaiserman reported that the following JLC members had agreed to continue as appointed officers for 2013-2014:

- Legislative Officer/Chair of the Legislative Operations Committee: Brett Reistad
- Assistant Legislative Officer/Chair of the Legislative Procedures Committee: Abe Zino
- Chairman of the Constitution & By-Laws Committee: Pete Fairchild
- Chairman of the Nominating Committee: Carmen Gentile
- JLC Representative to the Virginia Military Advisory Council: Chip Moran
- Chaplain: George Corbett

Chairman Kaiserman asked for a **motion** to approve the JLC appointed officers for 2013-2014 as presented. Vice Chairman Moran made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Bob Huffman, to approve the JLC appointed officers for 2013-2014 as presented. The JLC appointed officers for 2013-2014 were approved by **unanimous** consent.

### **Review the Compact with Virginia's Veterans**

Mr. Combs distributed a handout with the draft JLC and BVS sections of the FY13 report on the Compact with Virginia's Veterans, noting that the report was not yet ready for ratification by the JLC but was ready for review in draft format. He reviewed the handout and discussed the prioritized JLC and BVS recommendations. He explained that the report covers a three-year period, FY13-FY15; lists the recommendations submitted to the Governor and General Assembly for the 2012, 2013, and 2014 sessions; and covers the status of each recommendation. He asked members to send him any feedback on the draft report.

### **Other new business and open discussion**

Chairman Kaiserman opened the floor to new business and open discussion. Items discussed included:

- The opening of the new DVS Benefits Field Office in Henrico County on October 14. Chairman Kaiserman and Commissioner Galanti attended the ribbon cutting ceremony.
- Veterans Appreciation Day at the Ft Lee Solider Support Center on October 26.
- Guidance on the Real Estate Tax Exemption. Mr. Barton asked the status. Mr. Combs said he would check and let Mr. Barton know.
- Mr. Thomas Gimble stated that the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War Commemoration is ongoing, with many activities planned. Vice Chairman Moran stated that he would provide additional information at the December meeting.
- Mr. Williams asked that the Commissioner to speak about the effects of sequestration in Virginia in regards to state revenue.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. David Hawley noted that the DAV would be holding a veterans homeless stand down event on October 16 and a hiring event will be held on October 18.

### **Closing Remarks**

Chairman Kaiserman stated that the next JLC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18. He said that Governor McDonnell would introduce his budget on Monday, December 16, and that the JLC would review the budget items at the December 18 meeting.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chairman Kaiserman adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

# **ATTACHMENT 1**

**Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations  
American Legion Building  
1708 Commonwealth Avenue, Richmond  
October 16, 2013  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

## **AGENDA (as approved)**

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10:00 – 10:05)
  - II. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda and introduction of guests – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10:05 – 10:10)
  - III. Approve July 17, 2013 meeting minutes and August 14, 2013 Veterans Roundtable minutes – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10:10 – 10:15)
  - IV. Opening remarks – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10:15 – 10:20)
  - V. Presentations (10:20 – 11:30)
    - a. Veterans Services Foundation – *Al Pianalto, Foundation Member* (15 minutes)
    - b. Homeless and Housing Programs for Veterans – *Brandi Jancaitis, Director of Housing Development for Veterans, DVS* (55 minutes)
      - i. “All Hands on Deck: Collaborating to End Veteran Homelessness In Virginia” – *Matt Leslie, Associate Director, Housing Development for Veterans, DVS*
      - ii. “It takes a community – Continuums of Care and the local delivery of homeless services” – *Erika Jones-Haskins, Director of Program Initiatives, Homeward*
      - iii. “Habitat for Heroes: Every Hero Deserves a Place to Call Home” – *Nancy Melton, Vice President of Development & Marketing, Richmond Metropolitan Habitat for Humanity*
      - iv. “Casework in Action: Assisting a Veteran on the Path to Housing” – *Kerri Gerke, Veteran Resource Specialist, VWWP Region IV*
  - VI. Reports (11:30 – 11:50)
    - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (5 minutes)
    - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Rich Schollmann, VSF Chairman* (5 minutes)
    - c. Virginia Military Advisory Council – *Chip Moran, JLC Representative* (5 minutes)
    - d. Department of Veterans Services – *Paul Galanti, Commissioner* (5 minutes)
- Lunch (11:50 – 12:20)

VII. Old business (12:20 – 12:35)

- a. Veterans courts and legal services for veterans (report) – *Steven Combs, Director of Policy & Planning, DVS* (5 minutes)
- b. Review and discuss initiatives postponed from July 17 meeting – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10 minutes)

VIII. New business (12:35 – 1:45)

- a. Review JLC 2014 Initiatives: current status and JLC sponsors – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (10 minutes)
- b. Review BVS 2014 Initiatives, vote to endorse and support – *Thad Jones, BVS Chairman* (5 minutes)
- c. Report on the meeting with the Governor – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (5 minutes)
- d. Approve General Assembly Patrons for JLC and BVS legislative initiatives to be recommended to the Governor – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (5 minutes)
- e. Prepare for forums/meetings with General Assembly members – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (5 minutes)
- f. Approve JLC Appointed Officers for 2013-2014 – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (5 minutes)
- g. Review the Compact with Virginia's Veterans – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (20 minutes)
- a. Other new business and open discussion – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (15 minutes)

IX. Public comment period (1:45 – 1:55)

X. Closing remarks – *Don Kaiserman, JLC Chairman* (1:55 – 2:00)

XI. Adjourn (2:00)

## **ATTACHMENT 2**

### **Comparison: Private Sector Charitable Organizations and the Virginia Veterans Services Foundation**

#### **Private Sector Charitable Organizations**

The overriding responsibility of a nonprofit governing board is fiduciary, which requires it to act for the good of others. The board generally is responsible to the public and specifically to donors. It also is responsible for ensuring the nonprofit organization it governs abides by IRS regulations, state statutes, and nonprofit corporate law. Basically, the board members are responsible for securing adequate financial resources, ensuring financial stability, managing finances properly, protecting assets, and safeguarding the organization's integrity.

#### **Virginia Veterans Services Foundation**

The Virginia Veterans Services Foundation (VVSF) is an independent state agency governed by a Board of Trustees. The Code of Virginia-defined role of the Foundation is to: (1) administer the Veterans Services Fund; (2) provide funding for Department of Veterans Services (DVS) programs and services in the Commonwealth; and (3) accept and raise revenue from all sources to support the Veterans Services Fund. The VVSF board has the same basic responsibilities as private sector charitable organizations, but there are differences between the two which follow.

	<b>Private Sector Charitable Organizations (General)</b>	<b>Virginia Veterans Services Foundation</b>
<b>Enabling Authority</b>	Self-established	Established by Code of Virginia
<b>Structure</b>	Private or non-profit sector entity	State Agency
<b>Membership</b>	Selected by organization	Appointed by the Governor and General Assembly
<b>Non-profit status</b>	Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3)	Internal Revenue Code section 170(c)(1) and Code of Virginia
<b>Program support</b>	Determiners of the program(s) they support	Does not determine DVS programs or services
<b>Assets</b>	Determiners of assets needed (needs assessments) and how they will be used	Does not conduct veterans needs assessments to determine levels of funding required, which is the responsibility of DVS and its programs
<b>Fundraising</b>	Directly supports a core program for which the board and staff raise revenue	Directly supports multiple DVS veterans services programs including the Veterans Care Centers, Cemeteries, and Virginia Wounded Warrior Program who provide the primary contacts with donors and are de facto fundraisers
<b>Responsibility</b>	Responsible to the public and particularly the single constituency they serve – the donors	Responsible for representing the interests of donors, veterans, and the Commonwealth
<b>Flexibility – use of donated funds</b>	Able to determine how donor revenue is to be expended	Assures that 100 % of donors' contributions are used as directed by the donor

		Validates DVS requests for allocation of funds for DVS expenditure on programs and services to directly support veterans and their families
<b>Overhead</b>	Uses donor funds for fundraising and administration	Uses no donor funds for administrative and fundraising expenses, which are provided by DVS

# **ATTACHMENT 3**

## **BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES**

### **REPORT TO THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (JLC) OF VETERANS SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS**

**October 16, 2013**

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on July 24. The next BVS meeting is scheduled for November 13.

At the July 24 meeting, the Board adopted three initiatives, which have been submitted to Governor McDonnell for his consideration for the 2014 General Assembly session. The Board recommended that:

- The Department of Veterans Services (DVS) create a staff development plan to serve as an effective management tool to recruit, hire, train, and, especially, to retain Benefits Section staff. Based on this plan, DVS should identify the necessary funding to implement the plan in Fiscal Years 2015 and 2016 and submit a supporting budget request to the Governor and General Assembly;
- DVS closely monitor staffing levels at state veterans cemeteries to ensure that DVS has the staffing levels necessary to meet operational requirements, and that DVS submit a request for additional positions as required;
- The Governor and General Assembly enact legislation effecting a very limited change to the Code of Virginia in regards to the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP). The requested change would expand eligibility for benefits under the VMSDEP to the qualified survivors and dependents of recently separated or retired military service members who do not meet current VMSDEP residency requirements but who meet all other requirements. These veterans, when they were on active duty, may not have been bona fide domiciliaries of the Commonwealth of Virginia for tax purposes, but had a long-term physical presence in the Commonwealth because they were assigned to a duty station in Virginia. These new veterans have remained in Virginia after leaving active duty, and have or will take the steps required to establish domicile. They have demonstrated their commitment to the Commonwealth by their long-term physical presence and by remaining in the state after leaving active duty.

Board members Max Beyer, Thad Jones, and Sandra Love were reappointed by Governor McDonnell to four-year terms. The BVS welcomes new member Johnny Johnson, succeeding John Anderson.

The BVS looks forward to continuing its outstanding partnership with the JLC in service to Virginia's veterans.

Respectfully submitted,

Thad A. Jones  
Chairman

## ATTACHMENT 4

### **VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Joint Leadership Council (JLC) of Veterans Service Organizations October 16, 2013**

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees has held one meeting since last JLC meeting. It was held on August 7, 2013. The Finance Committee met on July 31 and provided its recommendations to the Board. The Development Committee met before the Board meeting on October 16. The following events occurred and actions taken at the Board meeting, in addition to the usual reports.

- (1) Reviewed Foundation fundraising and fundraising events conducted during FY13 and Foundation expenses;
- (2) Approved the 4th Quarter FY13 VSF Financial Report;
- (3) Approved FY14 Budget adjustments for VWWP, Virginia Veterans Care Center, and V3;
- (4) Approved VSF Committee appointments;
- (5) Approved the review and updating of VSF-DVS Joint Policies #5, 7, 8 and 9;
- (6) Approved development of Joint VSF-DVS Policies on Endowment Fund Use, Budgeting Procedures, Charitable Bequests, and a Bylaws change on Board Governance; and
- (7) Approved a request for V3 Funding.

As of 30 September, the Foundation has received donations during the first three and a quarter months of FY14 amounting to over \$105,000, of which almost \$95,000 is for VWWP. The total amount, as of 10 October includes donations for the care centers, cemeteries, and one donation for the Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Program. Much more is expected. Additionally, there still are a host of future fundraising events being scheduled for FY14. As always, the Foundation extends its sincere congratulations to the outstanding outreach of all DVS activities to realize this significant fundraising level. It could not have been accomplished without the dedication of all DVS personnel.

The Board of Trustees appointed the following committee chairmen for FY14:

Development Chair, Jim Boyd  
Finance Chair, Jack Kavanaugh

The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 6, 2013 at the Virginia War Memorial. The Development Committee will have a retreat followed by a meeting on Thursday, 31 October at the memorial and the Finance Committee will meet just before the Board meeting. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) a minute of silence for the passing of former Board Chairman David H. Holt; (2) approval of the First Quarter FY14 Financial Statement; (3) approval of draft new VSF-DVS Joint Policies; (4) Bylaws update; (5) review VSF FY14 fundraising program; (6) DVS budget adjustments as may be required for FY14.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Schollmann  
VSF Chairman

## ATTACHMENT 5



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Veterans Services

Paul E. Galanti  
Commissioner

Telephone: (804) 786-0286  
Fax: (804) 786-0302

Memorandum for: Chairman Donald Kaiserman  
Members, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

From: Paul E. Galanti, Commissioner

Date: October 16, 2013

Subject: Department of Veterans Services report

At our last meeting, I reported to you on just some of the exciting new initiatives that the Department of Veterans Services would launch in state Fiscal Year 2014. We're less than a third of the way through the year, and I am pleased to report to you on what we've already accomplished or will soon accomplish:

- Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center 40-bed addition: ground was broken on October 2 and the construction project is in full swing. Completion is expected in late 2014 with the first new residents expected to be admitted in early 2015;
- A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new Henrico County Benefits Field Office was held on Columbus Day. The new office is in the Resource Workforce Center at 121 Cedar Fork Road in the eastern part of the county. Please help us spread the word about the new office;
- On October 18 we will hold the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, a significant milestone for this model program;
- DVS is wrapping up the projects to add 4,000 pre-installed outer burial containers at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery (Suffolk) and 1,600 at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery (Amelia);
- Design work is underway for the expansion of the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond. Construction is expected to start in late-Spring 2014 and be completed in mid-2015;
- The October 8 Virginia Values Veterans (V3) Conference in Crystal City was a great success. We continue to work hard to create employment opportunities for veterans;
- Development is underway on a new application and approval system for the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependent Education Program.

Our success is your success, and vice versa. We have accomplished great things together in the past ten years, and I expect that the next ten will be just as successful!

## **ATTACHMENT 6**



### **COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**

Department of Veterans Services

Paul E. Galanti  
Commissioner

Telephone: (804) 786-0286  
Fax: (804) 786-0302

Memorandum for: Chairman Donald Kaiserman  
Members, Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

From: Paul E. Galanti, Commissioner

Date: October 16, 2013

Subject: Veteran Re-entry Services and Veterans Treatment Courts

At the July 17, 2013 meeting, the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) requested a report from the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) on Veteran Re-entry Services and Veterans Treatment Courts.

Please find attached the requested report, which was prepared by Ms. Mackenize Abridello, Re-Entry Resource Specialist, Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) Region V.

If there are any questions about the report, please contact Ms. Brandi Jancaitis, Department of Veterans Services (DVS) Director of Housing Development for Veterans, at 804-786-0596 or [Brandi.Jancaitis@dvs.virginia.gov](mailto:Brandi.Jancaitis@dvs.virginia.gov); or contract Ms. Abridello at 757-224-5208 ext. 2205 or [mabridel@hnnscsb.org](mailto:mabridel@hnnscsb.org).

## **Veteran Re-Entry Services Overview**

10,000 to 12,000 people are released from Virginia's correctional facilities and returned to communities each year. An even greater number reenter communities from local jails and federal correctional centers. The process of leaving prison and returning to society has become a significant challenge to the state and the nation. Persons released often have few resources and difficulty finding jobs, housing or help. National studies show that approximately two-thirds will be arrested again within three years of release.

In an effort to meet the challenges of prisoner reentry and in support of state initiatives, the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP), Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS), created a veteran re-entry initiative. The VWWP Southeast Region Re-Entry Initiative was created as a result of Governor McDonnell's Executive Order 11 (2010) – *The Virginia Prisoner and Juvenile Offender Re-Entry Council* – and continued by Executive Order 48. Efforts in the VWWP Southeast Region address directly the Governor's four main Re-Entry goals: 1) make recommendations to strengthen the prisoner re-entry program in Virginia; 2) increase public safety within communities; 3) reduce the risk of recidivism; and 4) decrease incarceration expenses for state and local government and taxpayers.

Based on the Governor's Re-Entry Initiative, VWWP's Southeast Regional Re-entry Model includes:

- 1) Attend and participate in active local Reentry Councils  
An updated (as of July 2013) listing of established Community Re-Entry Councils can be accessed at [www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/cvs/prisoner\\_reentry/intro\\_page/councils/about/dirjuly13.pdf](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/files/division/cvs/prisoner_reentry/intro_page/councils/about/dirjuly13.pdf)  
Calendar for upcoming Re-Entry Council meetings can be viewed at [www.dss.virginia.gov/community/prisoner\\_reentry/calendar.cgi](http://www.dss.virginia.gov/community/prisoner_reentry/calendar.cgi)
- 2) Visit city, regional, and state correctional facilities within Southeast Region every three months.
- 3) Brief veterans within 12 months of release about VWWP services.
- 4) Conduct one-on-one assessments with veterans to be released within 3 months.
- 5) Partner with the Veterans Administration to conduct assessments of healthcare, behavioral healthcare and community support needs.
- 6) Link with VWWP Resource Specialists to coordinate healthcare, behavioral healthcare, rehabilitative and other community support services one month prior to release.
- 7) Relay resources to incarcerated veterans prior to release.
- 8) Transfer cases to Resource Specialists on the day of the veteran's release from prison or jail.

## **Veterans Treatment Courts**

Veterans Treatment Courts (VTCs) divert veterans from jail to treatment, some with serious mental health disorders, some with substance abuse, some with both (co-occurring), whose decisions under these influences get them involved in criminal justice system due to criminal activity.

House Bill 1691 (Stolle/Bulova) and Senate Bill 1063 (J. Miller), approved by the 2011 General

Assembly, allow any city, county or combination thereof in the Commonwealth of Virginia to develop and maintain policies, procedures, and services to provide alternative sentencing for service members or veterans. It is up to each locality, or combination of, to facilitate local involvement based on community needs regarding criminal activity. Each locality is responsible for funding implementation of the specialty courts (also known as specialty dockets).

Generally, VTCs only accept those with non-violent misdemeanors, but as of July 2012 the Federal VTC, U.S. District Court in Roanoke, accepted its first non-violent felony charge. The federal *Service Members and Veterans Court Act* states that offenders may still participate in a VTC if they have been charged with either a non-violent misdemeanor or felony, as long as the veteran has not made a written plea of guilt.

VTCs are not designed to give preferential treatment to veterans and/or to jeopardize public safety. The courts are modeled after drug courts and mental health dockets, which address the underlying cause of criminal activity. The opportunity allows the veteran to be diverted from incarceration completely, or serve a lesser sentence, if they comply with treatment and programs monitored by the court. While a VTC is considered a “Specialty” Court or Docket, the dockets still have to operate within Virginia’s existing court system.

Some courts are run without additional funding. They use those community resources and service providers that are already in place to build a team that generally consists of a Judge, public defender, parole officer, treatment provider(s), and U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs Justice Outreach Specialist. Others have applied for and received grants to hire additional staff members to act as the coordinator of the team.

Veterans cases are screened by the team to determine the most ideal candidates (e.g. those assessed to be most likely to benefit from treatment). If a veteran is not ideal and/or fails to actively participate once accepted into a VTC, the veteran serves his/her incarceration period as does the general population involved in criminal activity.

For individual success stories and veterans testimonies see [www.justiceforvets.org](http://www.justiceforvets.org).

In an effort to expand VWWP re-entry services to include involvement with VTCs, VWWP Re-Entry Specialist Mackenzie Abridello will be attending the *Veterans Court National Conference* located in Washington D.C. in December 2013 and providing an overview of current initiatives to the VWWP Executive Team. The Conference is targeted towards Judges, Prosecutors, Defense Attorneys, Program Coordinators, Veteran Justice Outreach Specialists, Law Enforcement, State Department of Veterans Affairs, National Guard Commands, County Veterans Service Officers, and Veteran Service Organizations. Over 75 sessions will be offered covering various topics to include some of the following: Building Partnerships with the VA and Beyond; Veterans and Substance Abuse; Fundamentals of Veterans Treatment Courts; Special Consideration in Serving Veterans in Rural Areas; Veterans Service Organizations and Veterans Treatment Courts; and Securing Education and Employment for Justice-Involved Veterans. Early registration is open until November 1, 2013 and can be completed at [www.justiceforvets.org/2013-vet-court-con-registration](http://www.justiceforvets.org/2013-vet-court-con-registration).